

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL GOTEBOG BY POUCH

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 5145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SW

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF SWEDISH ELECTION

REF: STOCKHOLM 4652

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN A GENERAL ELECTION WHOSE RESULTS CAN BE DESCRIBED ONLY IN HISTORIC TERMS, THE THREE SWEDISH OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE WON OUT OVER THE RULING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-COMMUNIST BLOC FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1932. ALTHOUGH FINAL RESULTS STILL NOT CONFIRMED, IT APPEARS THE THREE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES (CENTER, MODERATE AND LIBERAL) WILL ENJOY A SURPRISINGLY COMFORTABLE 9-11 SEAT MAJORITY IN THE NEW RIKSDAG WHICH WILL CONVENE OCTOBER 4. PRELIMINARY FIGURES INDICATE NON-SOCIALISTS WON 180 SEATS (UP UNCLASSIFIED

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5 FROM 1973 TOTAL) WHILE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND

COMMUNISTS OBTAINED 169 MANDATES (DOWN 6 FROM LAST ELECTION). ACCORDING TO MOST OBSERVERS AND TO POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS THEMSELVES, THE NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUE WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPPOSITION VICTORY. PALME GOVERNMENT EXPECTED SUBMIT RESIGNATION TODAY TO SPEAKER OF RIKSDAG WHO MOST LIKELY WILL REQUEST THAT PRESENT CABINET REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED, BUT AS A CARETAKER AND NON-POLITICAL CABINET. END SUMMARY.

2. RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 19 ELECTION WERE AS FOLLOWS, WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE 1973 ELECTION:

	ELECTION	RIKSDAG	ELECTION	RIKSDAG
	73 PERCENT SEATS		76 PERCENT SEATS	

MODERATES	14.3	51	15.6	55
CENTER	25.1	90	24.1	86
LIBERAL	9.4	34	11.0	39
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS	43.6	156	42.9	152
VPK	5.3	19	4.7	17
KDS	1.8		1.4	
SKR	0.4		0.3	

3. PRELIMINARY FIGURES INDICATE THAT THERE WAS NEAR RECORD VOTER PARTICIPATION IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION WITH ABOUT 90.5 PERCENT OF THE 6 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS CASTING BALLOTS, INCLUDING FOR THE FIRST TIME APPROXIMATELY 500,000 YOUNG VOTERS IN THE 18-20 AGE BRACKET.

4. PRIME MINISTER PALME WILL APPARENTLY SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE RIKSDAG TODAY, WHO WILL ASK HIM TO REMAIN AS CARETAKER UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT CAN BE INSTALLED. THE SPEAKER WILL THEN CALL THE VICTORIOUS PARTY LEADERS TO THE RIKSDAG AND CONSULTATIONS WILL BEGIN ON GOVERNMENT FORMATION (REFTEL). THOUGH AGREEMENT MAY BE REACHED BEFORE THE NEW RIKSDAG CONVENES OCTOBER 4, THE NEW GOVERNMENT MUST RECEIVE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BEFORE IT CAN OFFICIALLY

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ASSUME OFFICE. HOWEVER, IF POSITIONS ARE ALLOCATED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE PARTY LEADERS MUCH BEFORE THEN, THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY BEGIN EASING INTO POSITION BEFORE IT IS ACTUALLY CONFIRMED.

5. NO ONE HAS PRECISE IDEA HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT, NOT THE LEAST BECAUSE THIS IS A NEW EXPERIENCE IN SWEDISH POLITICS.

PRE-ELECTION CONSULTATIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN
VERY LIMITED AND INFORMAL, WITH TOTAL
CONCENTRATION ON THE ELECTION ITSELF. THERE
IS AT THIS POINT LITTLE IDEA OF WHAT A NEW
GOVERNMENT WILL LOOK LIKE, BEYOND THE
ASSUMPTION THAT MR. THORBJORN FALLDIN WILL BE PRIME MINISTER.
A STRENUOUS TWO WEEKS OF NEGOTIATIONS IS
EXPECTED, WITH CONSIDERABLE INFIGHTING EXPECTED
OVER THE APPORTIONING OF POSITIONS.
SMITH

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